

CHICKENS& EGGS

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Maryland: Laying flocks produced 72 million eggs during September 2002, of which 69 million were table eggs and 3 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 76 percent. The average number of layers on hand during September 2002 was 3,147,000. On October 1, 2002, 0 percent of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 53.0 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

United States: Egg production totaled 7.15 billion during September 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.10 billion table eggs and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 989 million were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2002 averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,119 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,103 eggs in September 2001.

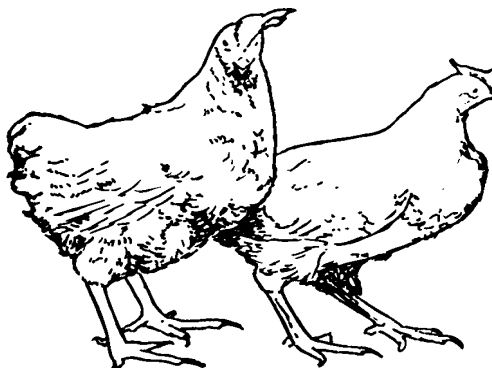
Egg-type chicks hatched during September totaled 35.4 million, down 4 percent from September 2001. Eggs in incubators totaled 30.8 million on October 1, 2002, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 259,000 during September 2002, up 18 percent from September 2001.

Leading breeders placed 6.7 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during September 2002, up 1 percent from September 2001.

Eggs and Layers: September 2001 and 2002

Item	2001	2002	2002/2001
Eggs Produced During Sept.	Million	Percent	
U.S.	7,044	7,145	101
Maryland	71	72	101
Layers, Average Number During Sept.	Thousand		
U.S.	335,020	337,151	101
Maryland	3,155	3,147	100
Eggs / 100 Layers During Sept.	Number		
U.S.	2,103	2,119	101
Maryland	2,250	2,288	102



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received by Maryland farmers for the month of October were up for wheat and hay, but down for corn and soybeans. Wheat prices rose for the fifth consecutive month. Corn and soybean prices retreated slightly, but remained well above average. Livestock prices were generally higher than September,

while poultry prices were steady to lower. The All Beef Cattle price increased a \$1.30 per cwt., following four months of declines. Hog prices rebounded strong following the lowest monthly price in almost four years. Broiler prices continued their slide to the lowest level since December 2000.

Commodity	Unit	Maryland and Delaware			United States			Parity Price
		OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 2002	OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 2002	
		Dollars						
Wheat, Winter	BU	2.54	3.54	3.87	2.82	4.14	4.41	9.68
Corn	BU	1.99	2.95	2.90	1.84	2.47	2.36	6.55
Barley	BU	1.36	1.42	1.42	2.29	2.66	2.58	6.43
Soybeans	BU	4.05	5.59	5.46	4.09	5.39	5.16	14.30
All Hay, Baled	TON	133.00	151.00	156.00	98.00	95.50	94.50	-----
Apples,Fresh	LB	----	-----	-----	0.248	0.300	0.301	.483
All Beef Cattle	CWT	65.00	61.60	62.90	66.50	64.80	64.10	160.00
Calves	CWT	89.10	83.20	81.00	99.70	92.00	91.10	212.00
Hogs	CWT	35.70	22.90	30.50	40.20	26.70	31.90	103.00
Milk, Fluid Market	CWT	17.50	N/A	N/A	15.60	11.60	11.90	33.30
Chickens	LB	.0001	0.087	0.084	-----	-----	-----	-----
Broilers	LB	0.450	0.390 ¹	0.360	0.410	0.300	0.280	-----
Turkeys, Live	LB	----	----	----	0.442	0.369	0.369	0.973
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.469	0.468 ¹	0.468	0.431	0.390	0.348	1.56

¹ Revised.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED			
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNITED STATES 1990 - 92 =100		
	OCT 2001	SEPT 2002	OCT 2002
All Farm Products	94	99	95
All Crops	88	*110	101
Feed Grain & Hay	86	* 112	106
Oil- Bearing Crops	74	* 88	90
Fruits & Nuts	126	132	129
All Livestock and Livestock Products	104	86	87
Meat Animals	91	81	84
Dairy Products	119	* 89	91
Poultry and Eggs	120	94	89
Ratio 1/	76	79	76
Prices Paid Index	123	125	125

*Revised

¹ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS INFORMATION

The following reports are available electronically at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/md/>. For ordering facsimile or printed versions phone the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service at (410) 841-5740.

Crop and Weather Report - Contains State information on crop progress and conditions, and weather effects throughout the crop year, including monthly county precipitation data. Issued each Monday, April through November.

Delmarva Broiler Chicks Report - Contains weekly broiler-type eggs set, hatched, and broiler chicks placed on Delmarva, including broiler eggs set and placed in 15-Selected States. Issued weekly.

Grain and Livestock Report - Contains timely statistics on all livestock and grains, cash grain quotes, forward contract price quotes, grain futures, and special items of current interest. Issued weekly.

Custom Rates - Rates paid for custom farming operations. Published annually each spring.

Agri-Facts Report - This publication is a review of our most current agricultural data available for Maryland and United States. Issued semi-monthly.

County Profiles - A special publication with county level data. Contains major crop county estimates and monthly weather data plus selected census data such as number of farms, land in farms, and value of sales for all products. Updated and published yearly.

Agriculture in Maryland Summary - This publication includes State, District, and County data for all Maryland crop and livestock estimates for current and previous year. Funding for this publication is provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Published annually each September.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

National Agricultural Statistics Service Home Page and U.S. publications: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

E-mail subscriptions of NASS publications: http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/ess_netid.html

For information on national publications CALL 1-800-999-6779.

Mail order requests to: NASS, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

Agricultural Statistics Hotline CALL 1-800-727-9540.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Home Page: <http://www.mda.state.md.us>



MILK PRODUCTION

Maryland dairy operators produced 324 million pounds of milk during the July-September 2002 quarter, up 2.2 percent from the same quarter a year earlier. The number of milk cows was 80,000 head, 2,000 head below from the same quarter a year earlier. Production per cow is 4,050 pounds for the quarter, up 4.8 percent from the same quarter last year.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.0 billion pounds, 3.4 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 61,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows And Production, July-September 2001-2002							
State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		2002/2001
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	
	Thousand		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
Maryland	82	80	3,866	4,050	317	324	2.2
United States	9,098	9,159	4,459	4,582	40,570	41,965	3.4

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT STATE STATISTICIAN AT (410) 841 5740

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Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>